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**FANNY CROSBY—A LIVING HYMN.**  
It has not been the privilege of every person to have read the essay by Charles Lamb in "A Quicker Meeting," but to those who have experienced detached for some high purpose that passage in which Lamb, the essayist, says: "Every Quaker is a silly and when they come up in bands to their Whitsunday conference, whitening the eastern streets of the metropolis from all parts of the United Kingdom, they show like groups of the shining ones."

We cannot, after reading that passage, but sometimes feel that sometimes not only regarding groups but regarding individuals, that they have been detached for some high purpose of ministry from a troop of the shining ones. We cannot but take the case of Fanny Crosby, who died last week, as a suggestion with regard to herself. There are some persons who on account of their qualities and the circumstances of their lives, seem to be treasures half of this world and half of the higher world. She lived in an atmosphere into which only too seldom the most of us are caught up and which she has descended in the hymns which have placed her among the prophetesses and saints of the Christian church.

It is both her work and her life that have given her this exalted, this quasi-sacred character in the regard of the Christian world. Next to Holy Writ in the reverence of piety are the songs that express religious faith and devotion. The Bible and the hymn-book go together. The latter, too, is sacred literature. One collection of hymns got into the Bible, and some of ours, composed in recent or comparatively modern times, might have been included in the New Testament if they had been written in the first century. It is easy and, as one might say, natural, for us to think that many of our hymns were inspired, just as were the utterances of the psalmists or the prophets of old. And occasionally hymn writers boldly announce their conviction that at certain times they were under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This avowal was made by Fanny Crosby, particularly in reference to the hymn "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" which she composed in fifteen minutes, in great concentration and exaltation of mind, according to the accounts given in the press sketch of her life.

Eight thousand hymns! This was the sum of her product, enough to fill a dozen hymnbooks. Most of them are already forgotten, but a large number are forever a part of Christian devotional literature.

And then, Fanny Crosby herself is sweet and gentle, modest and composed, forgetful of self, eager to shed sunshine into the hearts of others and fit her long life bind! She was a living hymn. She was not merely a remarkable successful interpreter in musical phrases of our religious sentiment, but in her personal manner and temperament sang to us continually from the radiance in which she dwelt beyond the cloud that lay between her and this visible world.

**WHAT WAS DONE IN THOSE FIFTY YEARS?**

It is almost laughable to read the criticism of Secretary Bryan by the National civil service reform league, which that organization has seen fit to make over a letter written to a United States official in San Domingo by Mr. Bryan in which he discussed a desire to find places in which to "reward deserving Democrats." The civil service reform league in its criticism of the secretary of state expresses its " profound regret that the secretary of state appears to have suggested and advocated the letter and justified the use of the customs service of Santo Domingo constituting a national trust for the benefit of another American Republic and its creditors, to reward partisan services in our democratic policies."

Now just let us look into the matter a trifle, and start with the premises that this national civil service reform league has overlooked the word "deserving" in Mr. Bryan's letter, or else does not admit that there is such a thing as a "deserving Democrat."

During fifty years of but slightly interrupted Republican rule places in the government service were utilized as rewards for Republicans, and in the disposal of these the Republican power were not at all solicitous some-

times that the recipients should be deserving in any other respect than that they should be Republicans.

It was only when the danger became evident that a change in the complexion of the administration might be imminent that an overwhelming majority of the places at the disposal of the government were put under the civil service, and the result is that the public service is now made up with Republicans from end to the majority.

And now, after having manned the ship and enjoyed the spoils for fifty years, it is a little suggestive of the grotesque to hear the Republicans speak, and the Republican civil service league, protesting whenever it is proposed to put a Democrat in office.

However, it does not appear that Secretary Bryan has ever been a very ardent civil service man. Being a democrat from intuition, he cannot adhere to any system calculated to build up an office-holding class in this country.

A portion of his letter of acceptance of his first nomination for the presidency in 1888 will disclose that fact, for in it he says, speaking for his party:

"We are not in favor of life tenure in office."

Civil service means life tenure in office. It is but one remove from the old monarchical entitling of titles and stations. It tends toward the creation of an official aristocracy.

If it is a good thing for the nation, it would be a good thing for the state. Suppose it were proposed to establish at once a rigid civil service for this state, now while most of the appointive offices are held by Democrats, how many of those who are criticizing Mr. Bryan for his desire to support a few Republicans with appointments in the national service would be for it? How the Republican papers would howl about it.

There is no more reason why there should be life tenure in the federal public service than that there should be in the municipal or state service, nor how many citizens would want a system whereby a man who managed to make a foothold in the city hall or the state capital should be privileged to stay there for life?

Civil service is a very fine thing for the fellow who is in, but it is of no service, civil or military, to the one who is out, and there are more out than there are in.

Those who founded the Republican form of government did it with the wise conviction that political rotation in office is a healthful process for a system of self-government, and that life tenure in office was conducive to the creation of classes in citizenship which would be bound to be contentious in its ultimate efforts.

I am violating no confidence, and charging no offense, when it is said that both Secretary Bryan and Postmaster Wilson believe that the bestowal of office upon party workers who are clean and capable is essential to party organization, and that party organization is one of the essentials of a good government, as it is through parties that the popular will must be worked out and the public welfare preserved.

**TOMMY-ROT WAR HOPE BY WOULD-BE STRATEGISTS.**

The formal retirement of the Russian army from East Prussia is expected to result in a reversal by the Germans to their original plan of conducting a defensive campaign on their own territory. It is pointed out parts that this should result in an advantage to the Russians in that Germans will be deprived of the transportation facilities which they were able to use with great success.

When an offensive campaign was undertaken and the Russians invaded East Prussia and Galicia early in the war the Germans were forced to withdraw a large number of troops from the west. This was considered here to have contributed largely to the German reverses in the battle of the Marne. Presently, however, it is felt that the object of their offensive campaign has been achieved and that the Russian army is to fall back to their original plan of defensive operations on Russian soil, along a line from the Nieman river in the north through Orelsk and Riazan to Grodno.

With this program in operation, Russian observers say, it probably will be possible to retard the German advance and at the same time defensive operations will be easier because the Russians will be harassed no longer by the shifting changes along the German front.

That is the dispatch sent out from Petrograd by the Russian military authorities themselves on Monday. If probably will be possible to retard the German advance—advances on Russian soil—the most hopeful message that Petrograd can send to the world, it is plain that the war takes on a new aspect.

And right here and now again it is permissible to again call attention to what this paper has asserted from the beginning—the fact that these "war experts"—these professional "strategists" and these amateur "strategists" who have burdened the wives and the newspapers with their "expert" opinions and advice do not know any more than the common herd—and never knew that they were talking about. The common soldier in the field who could not read or could not write his name shows more than the whole "war college" of self-appointed and personally conducted military "ex-

perts and strategists" who with their mouths clamped with cigarettes sat around hundreds of miles from the battle line and deal out "expert opinion" and "military strategy" to a waiting world.

In the beginning, and during the first several weeks, indeed months, of the war, the "expert opinion" of the world seemed pretty well agreed as to major strategy. Germany would have to deal to France and the Allies in the western theater a decisive defeat before the "ponderous and overwhelming Russian offensive" could be organized. Once Russia, slow but sure in its irresistible might, should have its military machine well under way, there would be no stopping it. And it was written under way with such unexpected speed that three or four months ago we were all seeing pictures of the Russian army eating its Christmas dinner in Berlin.

Germany failed to annihilate the combined French, Belgian and British armies in the west. After the first magnificent sweep to the south and east of Paris there was an almost equally rapid and spectacular retreat that abandoned a good half of the French territory that had been gained. The allied armies pushed steadily forward, and the Germans entrenched themselves in northern France and southern Belgium. For many weeks now the operations along this line have been deadlocked. For many weeks there has been opportunity afforded for that irresistible Russian advance—the capture of nearly the frontier of Poland, Galicia, Russia and East Prussia, but the inundation of Hungary over the Carpathians and the steady advance on Berlin contemporaneously.

But it hasn't happened. The Russian army is getting out of East Prussia with considerable difficulty. Another Russian army is struggling desperately to hold its position in the Carpathians, and now a withdrawal from Galicia is forthcoming, which would mean that, on the east battle front as on the west, the war is to be waged almost entirely in the territory of the allied powers.

The Allies, according to this revised strategy, can no longer depend on "the Russian hordes" to overwhelm Germany from the east while they, the Allies, are holding the Germans in deadlock in the west. If the war is to be carried to German territory it is becoming the turn of the Allies to try to carry it there. Germany can easily be crushed and overwhelmed so long as her soil is free of invading armies.

**EDITORIAL SHOULD "SWAT IT."**

The San Diego and San Francisco exposition Companys are spending thousands of dollars in leading magazines and other publications in this country, advertising those two enterprises. At the same time, they are sending to country newspapers propaganda to use a larger amount of free space to boost the exposition and are doing nothing about compensation to the country newspapers. The country newspaper is expected to be the free press house, while the big magnates and the big city papers get the huge cash contracts for their advertising. We are always glad to see that the popular will meet to oppose it.

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